

Sub 1
1. (Amended) An improved dental prosthesis comprising:
an implant abutment affixed at a lower end to a dental implant,
said implant abutment having an implant abutment axis;
a groove in said implant abutment extending substantially transverse to said axis
and O-ring of elastomeric material stretched about said implant abutment and
elastically retained in said groove, said O-ring having a cross-sectional diameter substantially
greater than the depth of said groove such that an outer portion of said O-ring projects from an
outer axial surface of said implant abutment; and
an appliance having a retainer cavity including a retainer surface closely
telescopically mateable onto said axial implant abutment surface, there being a complementary
groove in said retainer surface shaped to closely match and receive said outer portion of the O-
ring, said O-ring thus making a resilient retentive fit between said prosthesis and said implant
abutment.

Sub 2
5. (Amended) The prosthesis of claim 4 wherein said appliance is formed from metal and
processed into a denture.

6. (Amended) The prosthesis of claim 5 wherein said appliance is formed from porcelain
fused to metal.

Sub 3
7. (Amended) An implant dental prosthesis comprising:
an implant abutment affixed at a lower end to a dental implant,
said implant abutment having an implant abutment axis;
a circumferential groove in said implant abutment extending substantially
transverse to said axis; and

an appliance having a hollow retainer cavity with an outwardly and downwardly taper relative to said implant abutment axis forming a retainer surface telescopically mateable on an upwardly and inwardly extending facing a mating tapered surface on said axial implant abutment making a resilient retentive fit between said mating tapered surfaces.

10. (Amended) The prosthesis of claim 7 where said retentive element is a plane generally transverse to the axis of said implant abutment.

Please add the following new claims:

12. The prosthesis of claim 4 wherein said appliance is formed from metal and processed into a partial denture.

13. The prosthesis of claim 4 wherein said appliance is formed from metal and processed into a splinted bar.

REMARKS

Status of the Claims:

Claims 1-11 are currently pending in this application. The independent claims are claims 1 and 7. Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lazzara et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,988,297 ("Lazzara"). Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Grande et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,068,478 ("Grande"). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lazzara in view of Beaty et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,988,297 ("Beaty"). Claims 9-11 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grande in view of Lazzara. By this amendment,